

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7138**

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 436

**DATE PREPARED:** Feb 23, 2001

**BILL AMENDED:** Feb 20, 2001

**SUBJECT:** Funding for Autopsy Costs.

**FISCAL ANALYST:** Kathy Norris

**PHONE NUMBER:** 234-1360

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**      **GENERAL  
DEDICATED  
FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** Local

LOCAL IMPACT	CY 2001	CY 2002	CY 2003
Local Revenues	103,200	206,400	206,400
Local Expenditures	103,200	206,400	206,400
Net Increase (Decrease)	0	0	0

**Summary of Legislation:** (Amended) This bill provides that the cost of an autopsy performed on an individual who is a resident of Indiana but not a resident of a county: (1) in which at least one air ambulance provider is located; (2) in which the individual died; and (3) in which the autopsy was performed under the authority of the coroner in the discharge of the coroner's duties, shall be billed by the coroner to the county in which the incident occurred that caused the death of the individual on whom the autopsy was performed.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2001.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:**

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** (Revised) This bill would provide for billing for reimbursement of the cost of autopsies ordered by the Coroner or the County Health Officer in instances where an individual resident of another county dies in a county in which an air ambulance provider is located. Currently three counties have an air ambulance located within the county; Marion, Allen, and Fulton counties have helicopter service available. (The air ambulance service based in Rochester is the second helicopter of the Fort Wayne-based Samaritan Service.) The bill allows the Coroners of Allen, Fulton, or Marion Counties, to bill the

county where an incident took place that necessitated the transport of an individual who subsequently died in Allen, Fulton, or Marion County.

In 1998, the State Board of Health had reports of Coroner-ordered autopsies on 81 Indiana residents who were not residents of Marion County and 43 out-of-county Indiana residents in Allen County. Fulton County had no reports. (The Samaritan helicopter service was not operating in Rochester during 1998.)

The Allen County Coroner's Office reports the cost of an autopsy to be between \$1,000 and \$1,600 depending on individual circumstances. The Indiana University Forensic Science Department, which is under contract to the Marion County Coroner, reported a similar range although the procedures are not charged on an individual basis under the terms of the contract.

Marion and Allen Counties reported a total of 129 procedures on out-of-county Indiana residents in CY 1998. If the cost of the autopsies is assumed to range between \$1,000 and \$1,600 per procedure, the cost of this bill would be expected to fall within a range of \$129,000 to \$206,400 annually. This cost estimate does not include the impact of the Rochester-based Samaritan helicopter since the service was not started until late last year.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:** (Revised) The Coroners in Marion, Allen, and Fulton counties would have reimbursements of expenditures equal in amounts to the expenditures incurred by the counties that are billed for services.

**State Agencies Affected:**

**Local Agencies Affected:** Coroners' Offices in Marion, Allen, and Fulton Counties and any other counties where regional hospitals might implement air ambulance services.

**Information Sources:** State Department of Health, Epidemiology Division, Linda Stemnock, (317)-233-7536; Mr. Dick Alfeld, Allen County Coroners Office, and Dr. Pless, IU Department of Forensic Science.